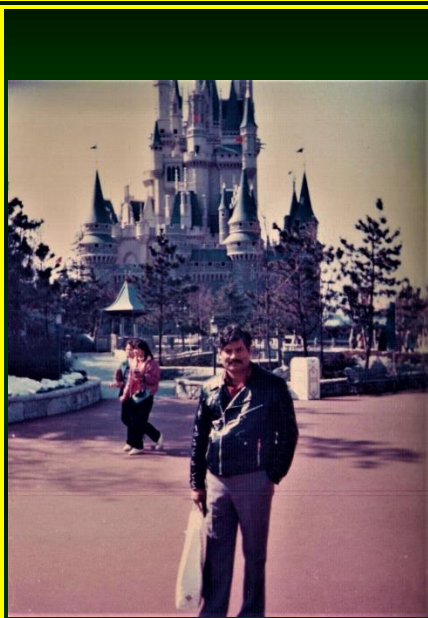
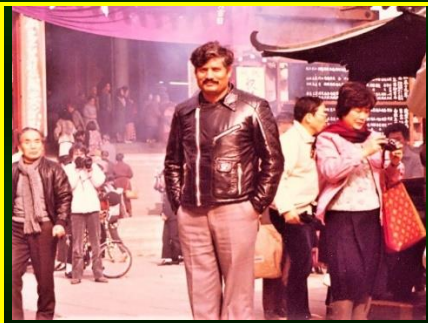
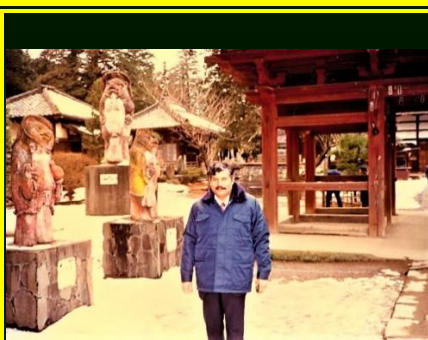
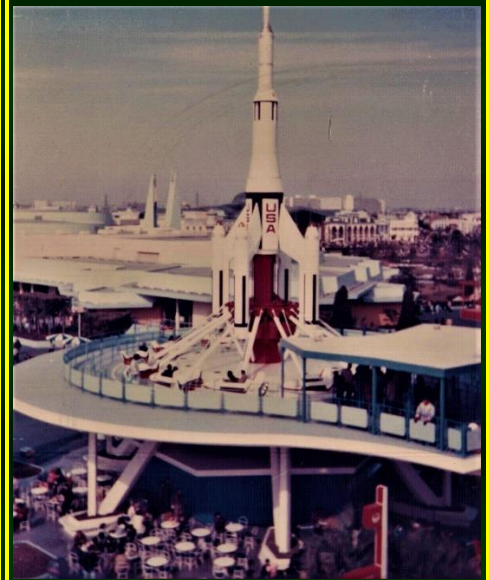




PICTORIAL TRAVELOGUE

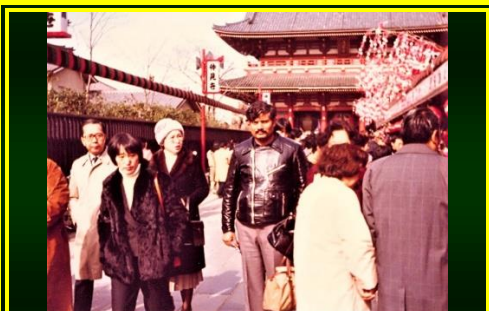
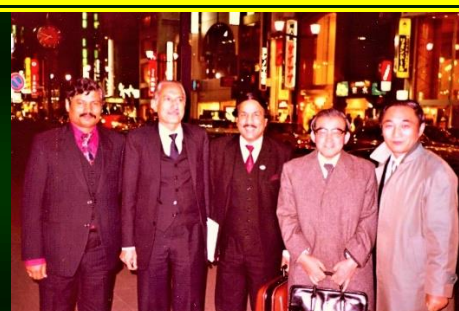
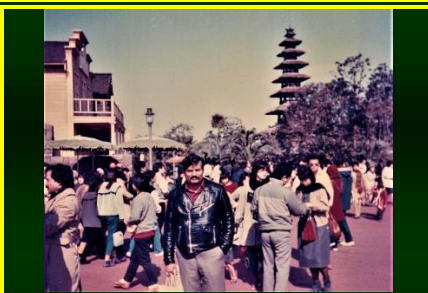
JAPAN
1984



By

Mqsood Ahmad Khan

II



PICTORIAL TRAVELOGUE

JAPAN

1984

BY

Maqsood Ahmad Khan

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

PAKISTAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

JAPAN PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE

JARTS

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

DEDICATION

**My dedication for the success of this programme is to
My Family Members**

Especially my wife – Farzana Ahmad Khan

PREPARATION OF THIS WORK

All the work has been done by me, including typing. For any error, whatsoever, I may be excused.

The photographs were taken in 1984 with 110 mm and 135 mm cameras.

Most of the people who appear in the photographs are my colleagues or concerned officials. For the rest I stand indebted with thanks.

Maqsood Ahmad Khan
General Manager ®
Welfare & Training

Pakistan Railways
31th July 2018

JAPAN
LAND OF THE RISING SUN
1984

The First Part of our training was at the Development Academy of Philippines, which, we completed successfully. The Second Part of the training was in Japan with Asian Productivity Organization. From Manila we flew to Tokyo by Japan Airlines and reached there on 1st February 1984. I missed our stay in the Philippines but at the same time I was looking forward to see Japan. The flight, throughout was over the sea; China on our left and Pacific on the right. Since it was day journey, therefore, occasionally I could see the ships which looked like tiny toys. The very idea that I was going to Japan was quite exciting.

NARITA AIRPORT

We landed at Narita Airport. We were not required to have a visa for Japan but our coordinators preferred it to have it, so we had our visa at Manila from the Japanese Embassy. At the airport everything was quite comfortable. The immigration and custom formalities were very swift. Some of us had some raw food stuff, which, however they did not allow to carry out. The members of the staff were quite soft, nice and polite. Something, which struck me was that, unlike, I had visualized the Japanese on duty were quite tall and little bit bulky.

NARITA TO TOKYO

When we came out of the Airport, a lady was waiting for us with a Micro Bus to take us to Tokyo City, about 60 kilometers from the Airport. The lady was quite nice and handled us like school children. At first she counted the heads and counterchecked with the list, which, remained a normal practice throughout our journeys while travelling in a group. The journey from the Airport to the city was quite exciting. I was seeing, the first time, a modern road structure; and the traffic, which, was very orderly. The roads were wide and guarded on both sides, so the speed and safety were quite prominent. The very sight of Tokyo made me feel that I was in a town of the modern world.

BONSAI TREES

On our way, at a Toll Plaza, I saw fully grown tiny trees in small containers. It was very exciting for me. I had heard about these trees but It was the first time I was seeing these with naked eyes. Later, it was quite a common sight for us in Japan.



Bonsai Trees

HOTEL

We were accommodated in a Hotel near Hamamatsuchō Station. It was a Japan Railway Hotel and quite comfortable. The rooms, though, were small yet had the facilities like tv, electric kettle with accessory, night gown, slippers, attached bath; and of course, a telephone too. The window was opened towards the wharfs, therefore, all the time I could see the small ships and ferries moving and berthed; and a Lighthouse with blinking light in the background.



Hotel Room – Tokyo



Hotel Lobby

STAY AND TRAINING IN JAPAN

During our stay in Japan, we had official study tours as part of training; and on our own, in smaller groups and alone too. The exposure to the Japanese Infrastructure and the Japanese Life was really a wonderful experience which, was a good start of my journeys which I can never forget. My first journey was to the modern world with modern gadgets around. Automation, quite common, was the thrill of life for me.

The training in Japan included lectures by specialists on important subjects, preparation of a Feasibility Study about the Tokyo Metro and Paper Writing by every group, compulsorily, with contribution by individual participants.

FORMATION OF GROUPS

While in the Philippines, our training was common and we all were together in a group but in Japan we were split up in smaller groups as detailed below.

A	• The Japan Development Group	JDB
B	• The Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. • Small Business Finance Corporation	IBJ SBFC
C	• The Japan Railway Technical Service	JART
D	• Kishiwada Chamber of Commerce and Industry	KCCI

ACTIVITIES OF RAILWAY GROUP

RAILWAY GROUP

I was in the Railway Group. The members of Railway Group, during their stay in Japan, were exposed to the working of the Japanese Railways, organizations related to the railways and places of general interest relating to productivity. APO and JPC coordinated our activities. The members of the railway group were from Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand

INTERPRETER

Though, English was spoken and understood in Japan but it was not common. The entire business was almost in Japanese. Therefore, they facilitated us with a Lady Interpreter, who remained with us upto the last day. She was Japanese and her name was Madhuri. She was very fluent in English and was quite helpful as an interpreter as well as a person.

In Japan in the Tourist Guides there was general that if you wanted any help, contact a young Japanese as the younger generation was quite interactive and understood and speak English as a second language.

JAPANESE RAILWAYS

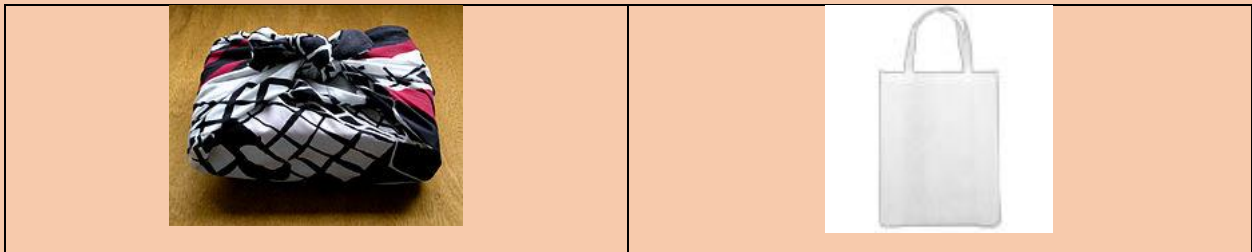
JAPANESE RAILWAYS

JARTS

Most of the time we were hosted by JARTS – Japan Railway Technical Service, a Japan's non-profit overseas-oriented technological assistance liaison organization to provide technical assistance for railway construction and improvement in various railway technologies. The very first day, we were taken to their office. First time we travelled by the Tokyo Metro. When we detrained at the station, we were taken by a lift to 6th or 7th floor; and when we got out of the lift, the very office of the company was just in front of us.

CLASS ROOM

Lectures in the class room were delivered by eminent Japanese Railway Experts, especially, related to Signaling and Communication. The lecturers were so simple that they were carrying their lecture material, either, wrapped in a piece of cloth or a hanging bag. However, professionally, they were experts of their subjects to the latest technology.



Furoshiki

Traditional Japanese wrapping-cloth used to carry clothes, gifts, or other goods.

Bags used to carry notes on very advanced and technical subjects by the lecturers



Our Interpreter

Railway Group in the Class



Myself in the Class

RAILWAY TRAINING SCHOOL

In the Training Centre we saw the latest techniques to train the Japanese Railway Staff. We also saw a model of Magnetic Levitation Railway (MAGLEV).

A model of the Maglev was displayed at the gate of the Institute.



1984



2017

From the Internet

JR's first experimental Magnetic Levitation Train (ML 100) out side RTRI -
Railway Technical Research Institute, Tokyo Japan

DRIVERLESS TRAIN

A tour was organized to visit the newly built Driverless, fully automated train on a small section. There was no driver in the train. It was stopping at and starting from the stations automatically with announcements, to dot, without an error. We were shown a big control room containing, mega computing system which was fully locked and protected.



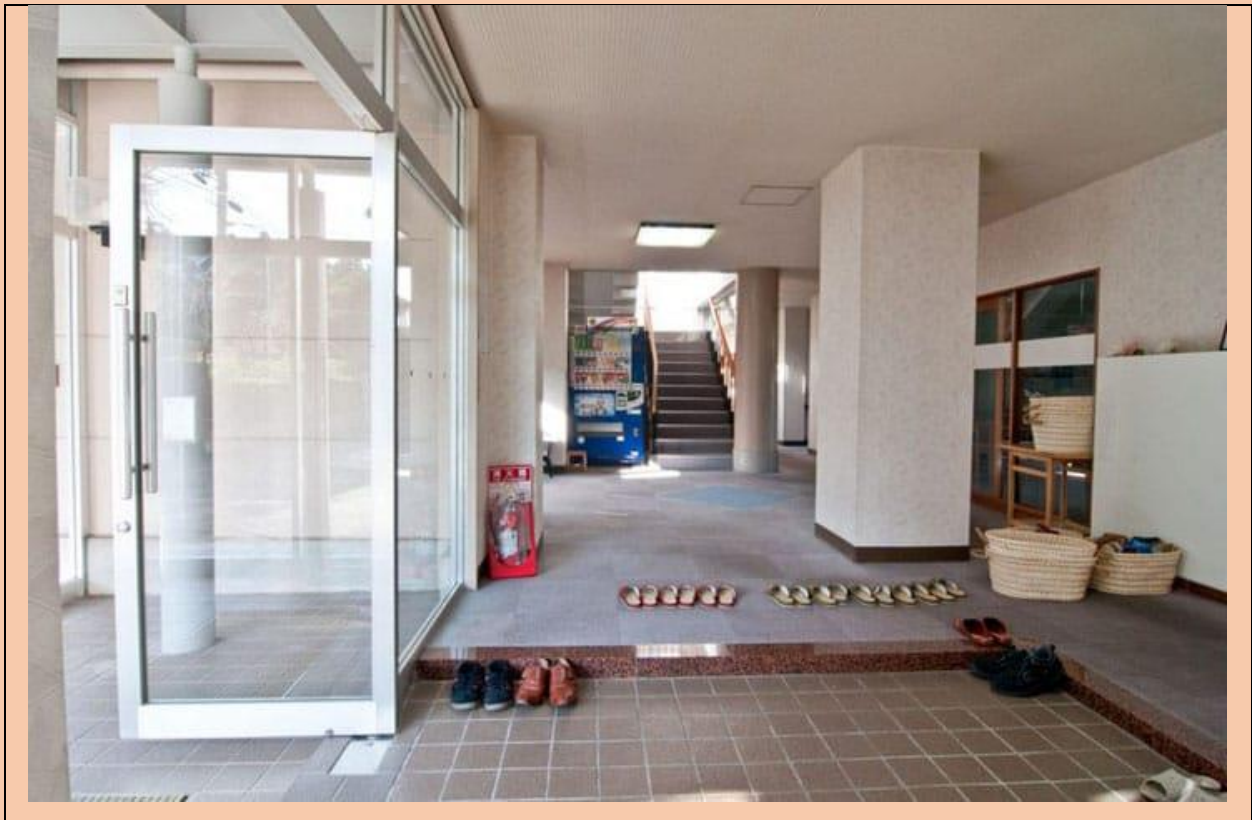
Photo from the Moving Train



A side view from the train

TRAIN CONTROL OFFICE

We visited a Train Control Office, where train movement was being monitored, controlled and ensured that the trains ran according to the schedule. We had to put off our shoes before entering the control office and put on slippers provided at the door. This was a common practice at, almost, all the places where dust was to be avoided to keep the interior clean and dust free. This was, rather a social requirement which was practiced in their houses and other places as well.



A Picture from the Internet

The Control Office was technically very advanced, however the overall working style of the staff was close to our control staff back in Pakistan. I enjoyed this very much and for a moment felt as if I was not in Japan but in Pakistan.



**Railway Trains Control Office
Tokyo – japan
1984**

TOKYO METRO - SUBWAY

We used the Tokyo Metro for our daily travels to and from different places for official and personal tours. Hamamatsucho Station was close to our hotel where we were residing. It was very convenient for us to reach anywhere in Tokyo.

The map of Tokyo metro of 1984 is given below.

TOKYO METRO – SUBWAY MAP



1984

TRAVELLING IN TOKYO METRO – SUBWAY





TOKYO STATION

We visited Tokyo Station officially and were shown different work places including the Running Time Calculating Room for high speed Intercity Trains. The timings of the trains were being worked out keeping in view the feedback from various sensors giving data about wind velocity, snow on the track seismographic forecast and many other factors which determined the speed of the train on that particular day and time. For this purpose, a board was being used by the staff making simple as well as complicated calculations determining the path for a particular train. The data were being fed into the computer to make the scheduled graph of train which it would follow exactly close to it. The same timings were announced on the different media

including telephones; and user could exactly know the arrival and departure of a train at a particular station to dot. Thence, 100% punctual running of the trains

TOKYO STATION





FUJICOLOR HR 84

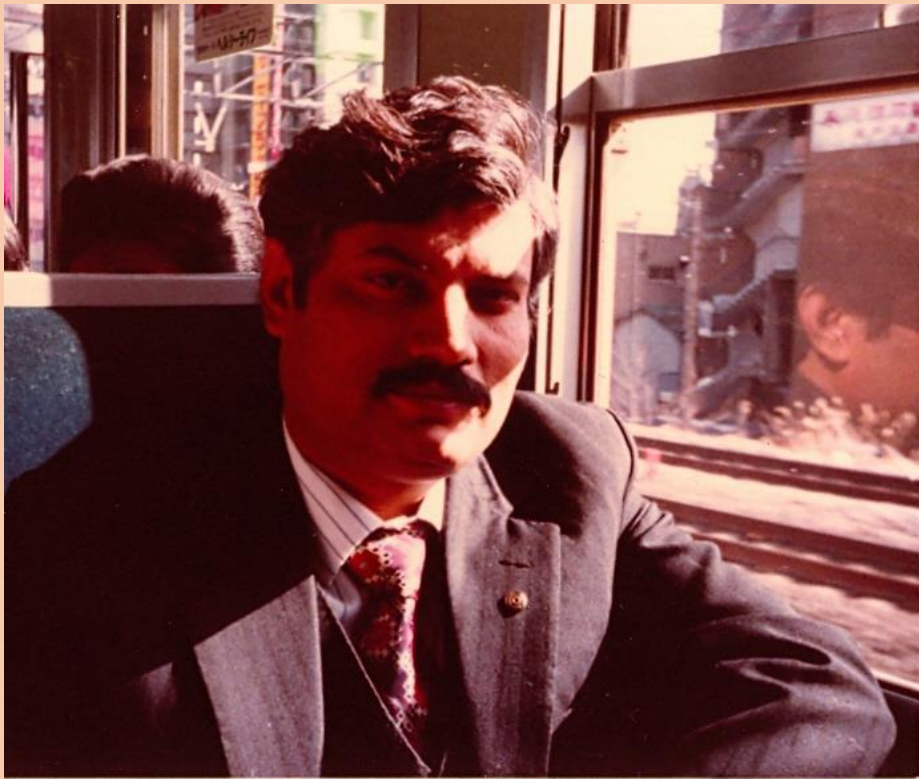


TRAVELING BY TRAINS

Being the member of Railway Group, we were privileged to travel, most of the time, by trains including Shinkansen. This gave us an opportunity to see many a places in Japan.

















JAPAN

THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN

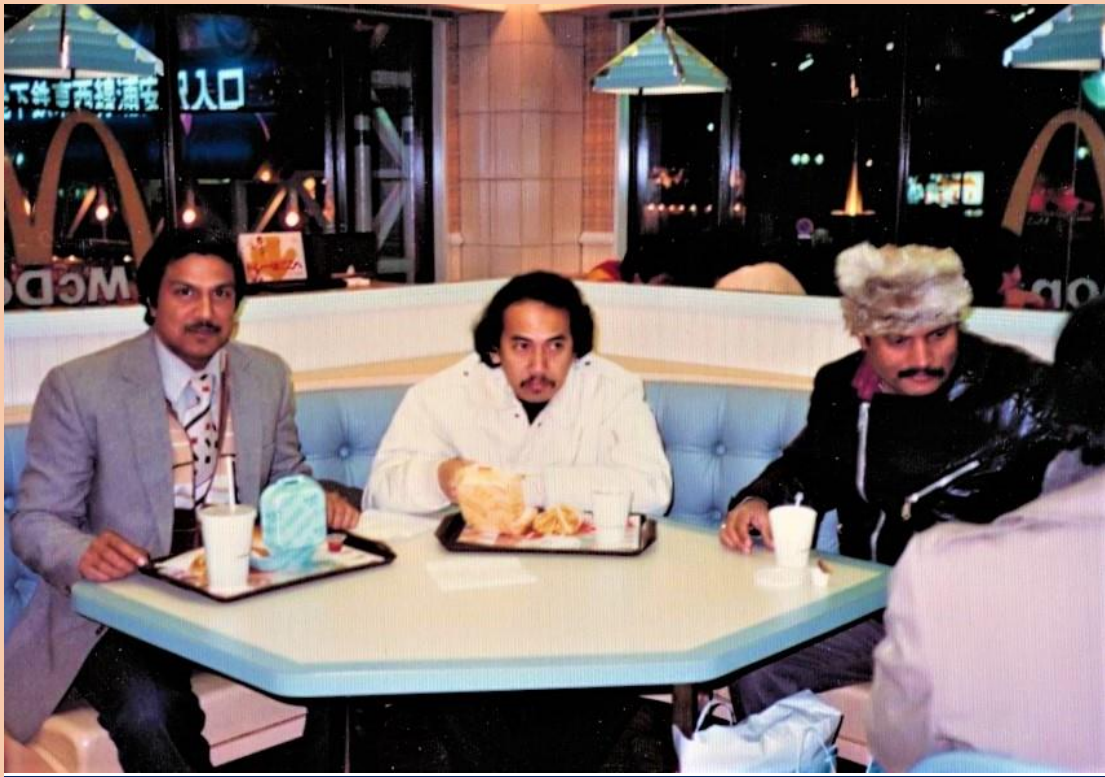
The Japanese were quite pleasant and friendly; and no sign or aversion or otherwise was felt or experienced. Though the language barrier was there especially while dealing with the elderly people but they were kind and smiling.

In the Tourist Guide Books, it was explicitly highlighted that if anyone found it difficult to interact, the younger Japanese would be contacted as they were gradually getting conversant with English Language; and more interactive.

In spite of Westernization, the general fervor of the society was quite oriental.

FOOD IN JAPAN

Food for Pakistanis was a very serious issue. Hearing 'No' to many a food items, our Korean course mate said that he wondered what we ate on earth to live. However, we managed – I managed with fish and chips and vegetables etc. Later on we found a Pakistani Restaurant around at distance we could afford to go there and had our food. In those days there were hardly any Pakistani restaurants except the one we could find and survived





WEATHER IN JAPAN

When we reached Japan, the weather was cold but clear. Most of the time we were putting on warm clothes. However, during our stay, we faced severe harsh weather as well, when there were heavy rains, strong winds and snowy storms. During those days it was quite difficult to travel, even, from the railway station to the nearby hotel. So, I hired a taxi and managed to reach the hotel even for a small distance.

The taxi service was available through phone, therefore, in many a cases while leaving the hotel we availed this facility, through the courtesy of the hotel desk.

TIP AND BEGGARS

We hardly saw a beggar throughout our stay in Japan.

Another thing significant was that it was explicitly notified in the Tourist Guide Books that the tourists might not offer tip for any service in Japan.

DISNEYLAND

TOKYO

JAPAN

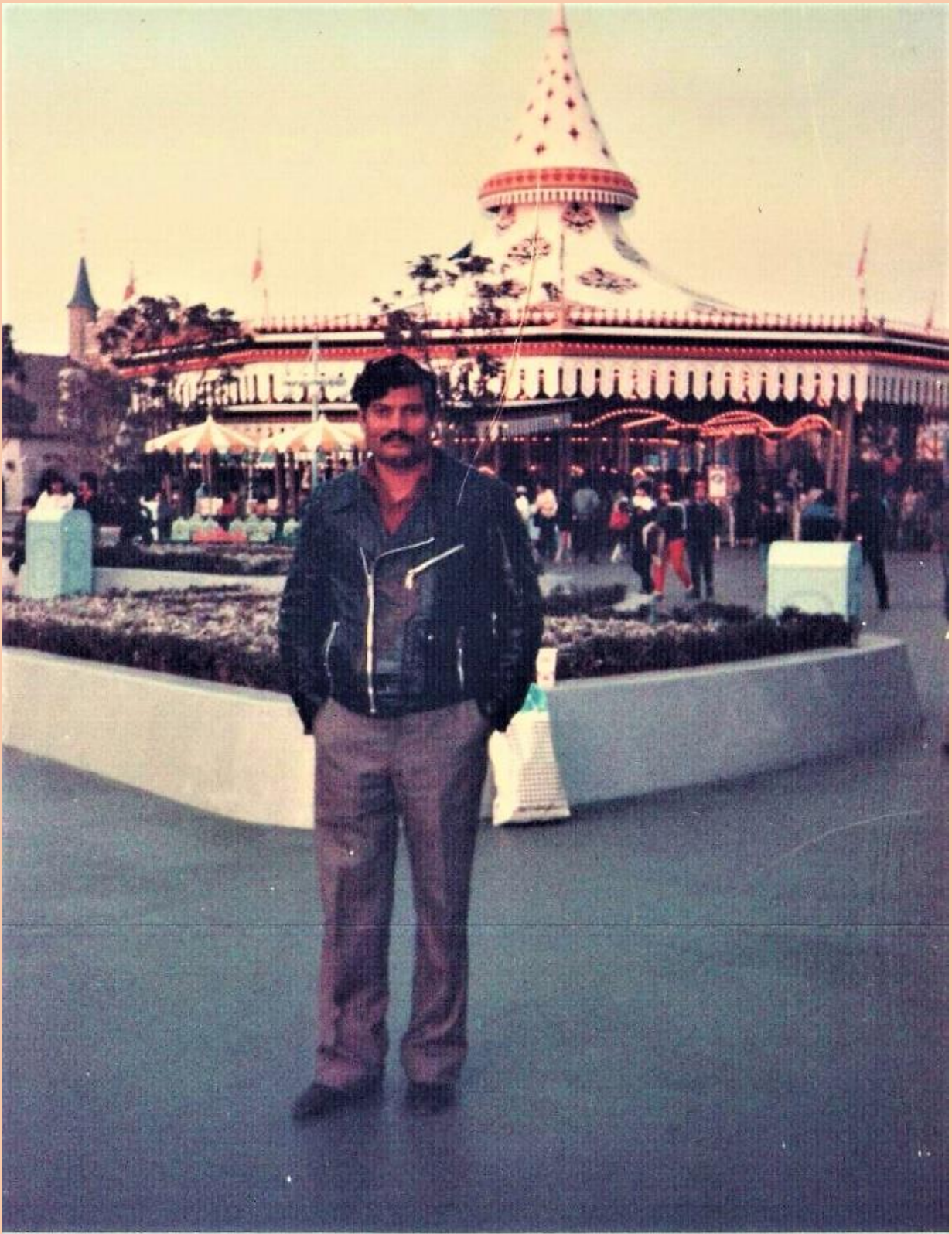
DISNEYLAND – TOKYO – JAPAN

While in Japan we got one day to visit Disney Land of Tokyo. It was really a wonderland experience for us – lot of attractions, rides and wonderful things to see. I bought a 'Passport' Ticket for all attractions and then ran across till late at night. I could see almost all the important attractions. It was a lifetime experience and I still recollect and enjoy to be there.

A few photographs are given below.





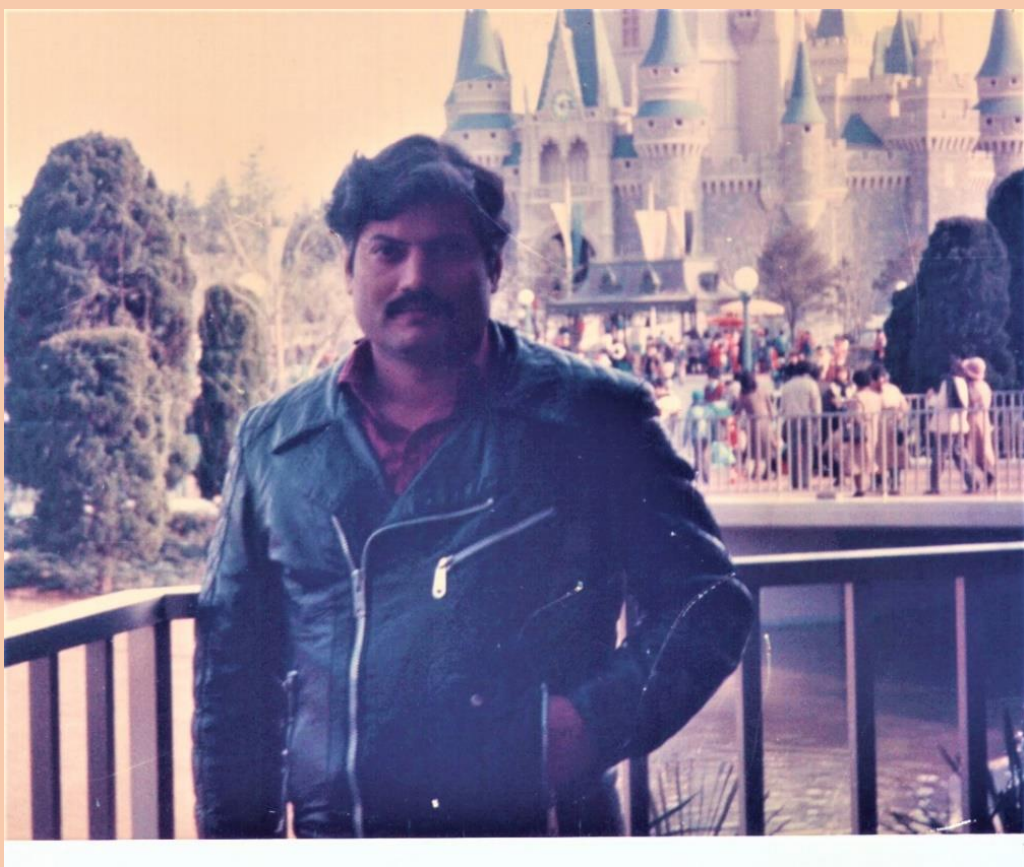












SHRINES AND TEMPLES IN TOKYO

SHRINES AND TEMPLES IN TOKYO

There are many shrines and temples in Tokyo. I could visit a few and watched the rituals performed there.

Two primary religions are practiced in Japan, Shinto which is practiced at Shrines; and Buddhism, which is practiced at a Temples. Both religions date back thousands of years.

SHINTO SHRINES

- People enter a Shinto Shrine through a Torii Gate.
- Shinto shrines use the suffix jingu, as in Meiji Jingu.
- A pair of guardian dogs or lions, called shisa or komainu, often sit on each side of the entrance to a Shinto Shrine
- There is a purification fountain near the entrance to a Shinto shrine where you cleanse your mouth and hands before prayer.

BUDDHIST TEMPLES

- Buddhist Temples use the suffix ji in their name.
- A Buddhist temple always houses an image of the Buddha.
- A large incense burner is usually at the front of a Temple
- There is often a pagoda in the premises of a Buddhist Temple.

SHRINES – TEMPLES VISITED





BEAN THROWING FESTIVAL – SETSUBUN

While visiting a Shrine we saw that some festivity was going on – lot of people, men and women were there and high priests from a higher place were throwing beans towards the people who were trying to catch these. Lot of excitement amongst the people.

It was Bean Throwing Festival being celebrated, which, is the first day of Spring - February 3rd or 4th - according to the old Japanese calendar - which is called Setsubun. During the festival there is a custom of throwing roasted soybeans while chanting "In with Fortune! Out with Evil" in order to prevent evil entering one's house.

Some photographs taken are given below.











TOKYO STREETS

TOKYO STREETS

Whenever we found an opportunity, we used to go out and enjoyed walking in the streets of Tokyo and other places to have the feel of Japanese culture, living and life style – anything

GINZA STREET

Ginza street was a treat especially at night not only for the tourist but equally attractive for the Japanese. This was the most frequently place for us to wander around. It was lit like a day at night – beautiful signboards and hoarding twinkling like stars and milky ways.

VENDING MACHINES

The Japanese had done away with small manned vending shops, instead, replaced with Dispensers – Automated Vending Machines. You insert the coins of specific denomination as tagged on the thing you want to buy; and with a click the thing chosen is dropped in a case - pick it up and enjoy. The vended things included cigarettes, canned drinks, coffee, packed food, newspapers etc. It had made the life very easy and labour saving as well. These machines were available every nook and corner. We made full use of this facility.



**IN FRONT OF A VENDING MACHINE IN TOKYO - JAPAN
1984**

ATM - AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE

One evening we were passing by a street and saw a man against a wall – comparatively a darker sight – doing something, I could not comprehend. Later I knew that he was drawing money from a machine called an ATM. Need not to remind it was the year 1984.

STREET SCENES









PICTORIAL TRAVELOGUE – JAPAN 1984

Maqsood Ahmad Khan









PICTORIAL TRAVELOGUE – JAPAN 1984

Maqsood Ahmad Khan





Pakistan railways' Chief Mechanical and Civil Engineers met us in the Toko Street along with JARTS' Official on another assignment

SHINJUKU

Shinjuku, at that time, we used to visit, was a hub of shopping, especially to buy cameras. Almost, all the shops had been declared as Duty Free for the tourists and the things were cheaper than the normal market rates

TOKYO TOWER

Tokyo Tower was the tallest structure in Tokyo which could be seen from anywhere in Tokyo. I visited the tower and enjoyed Coffee and Corn there.

Tokyo Tower was built in 1958; and these days is used as Communication and Observation Tower. The main sources of Tower's income are Tourism and Antenna Leasing.



Tokyo Tower

Internet Picture

COOPERATE

PRODUCTION UNITS

Since our host was the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), therefore we visited big industrial units as well which included: Toyota Car Plant, Toyoda, as well.

TOYOTA CAR PLANT





SUMITOMO



OTHER PLANTS





QUALITY CIRCLE (QC)

During our visit to the large manufacturing units we were explained about the concept of Quality Circle, which, was a group of workers who do the same or similar work, meet regularly to identify, analyze and solve work-related problems; led by their supervisor or manager, who, present solutions to the management in order to improve the performance of the organization and motivate employees.

OTHER CITIES

During our stay in Japan we were taken out of Tokyo to Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe; and travelled by Shinkansen (Bullet Train)

KYOTO

Kyoto – the old capital of Japan. When KYO-TO is rearranged it becomes TO-KYO, the new capital. We were accommodated in a hotel in the downtown. Here too we roamed about the town and many a places

KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

The National Museum of Kyoto was and still is quite a prominent place, which we did visit.



Kyoto National Museum

SANJŪSANGEN-DŌ

TEMPLE OF ONE THOUSANDS STATUTE OF BUDDHA

During our stay in Kyoto we visited, also, the Hall of the Lotus King or Hall with thirty-three spaces between columns, describing the architecture of the long main hall of the temple. The temple contains one thousand life-size statues of the Thousand-Armed Kannon which stand on both the right and left sides of the main statue in 10 rows and 50 columns.



Internet Photographs

FAREWELL PARTY

FAREWELL PARTY

A farewell party was organized by our hosts in Japan just before the finalization of our training programme. The party was given in our hotel which was quite sumptuous. It was attended by senior strata of different organizations of our hosts. Most of the dishes were of seafood, including Raw Fish. I could not eat much of the food because of our eating habits. However, it was a treat in itself and I felt honored. Soft drinks were served in the party.









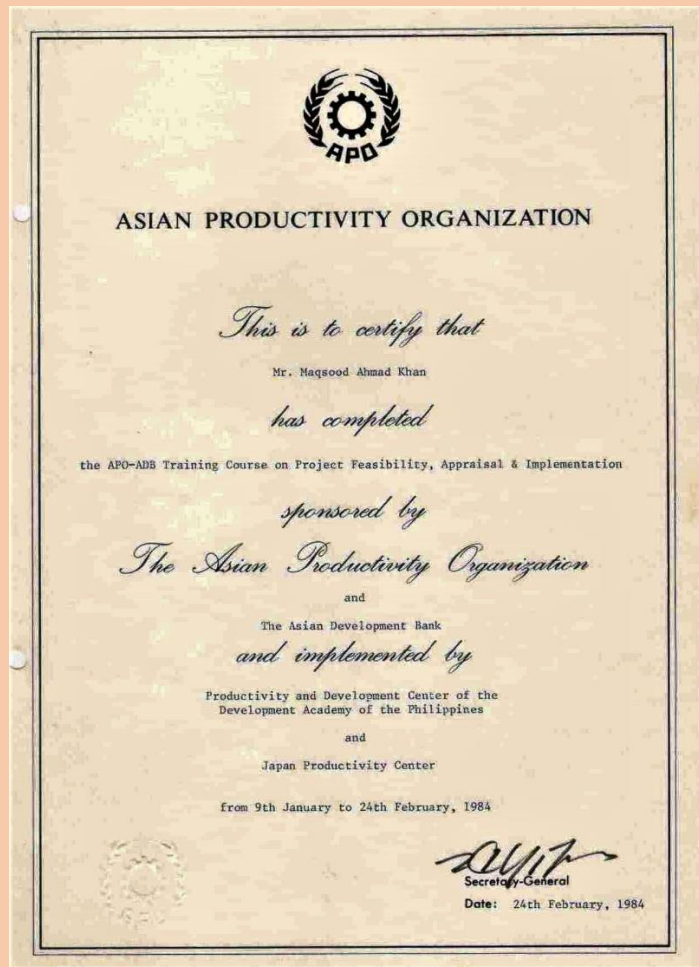




CLOSING CEREMONY

At the end of the course, the Railway Group wrote a report, each participant, one chapter in manuscript and submitted to the organizers. Getting the report typed was quite a hard job at that time – there were no computers or laptops in those days.

The Closing Ceremony was arranged in the Japan Productivity Centre, Tokyo, which was attended by the senior officials of concerned departments and all the participants. Certificates for completing the Course were awarded to all the Participants; and the visit concluded with a sigh of relief.



FLYING TO HONG KONG

From Japan the Pakistani and Bengali Participants planned to avail a Stopover at Hong Kong. So, we got booking accordingly and flew to Hong Kong on 25th February 1984 from Narita, Tokyo.

親愛なる親愛なる日本人



I, Maqsood Ahmad Khan, after having the Master Degree in Economics from the Government College, Lahore (Punjab University) in 1972, qualified the Competitive Examination for Civil Services of Pakistan 1974 and joined Traffic (Transportation & Commercial Group) of Pakistan Railways. I rose to the level of General Manager (Welfare & Training); and completed my services on 4th March 2010, after attaining superannuation. During the service, I could visit many a countries, viz Belgium, Canada, Egypt, England, France, Holland, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, UAE, USA, West Germany in connection with foreign assignments, training, meetings, visits and studies; alone or with the members of my family. To make these journeys memorable, the use of the camera was a tool with me. The collection of the photographs thus taken, when seen at the later years, gave an account of travels round the world, which I am sharing with others as information; memoir or self-actualization. Hope, the readers would enjoy my Pictorial Travelogue. For any feedback or comments please contact at

matmfkz@gmail.com

PS: The photographs of the friends, colleagues and others have been uploaded in good faith, as memoir.

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